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DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held at Beijing from 15 to 19 October 1990

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions to be recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific, recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the approval of the following draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Appointment of a full-time liaison officer for the co-ordination of drug-control activities in Asia and the Pacific*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recognizing the recent upsurge in the involvement of nationals from other regions, often using false travel documents, in illicit traffic in heroin from Asia and the Pacific,

"Aware that effective countermeasures taken by national authorities and law enforcement agencies would lead to the emergence of new trends in illicit trafficking,

"Stressing the need for co-ordination of efforts by all States in Asia and the Pacific in response to such new trends,

"Aware of the so-called 'ballooning effect', whereby illicit traffickers shift their operations to points where law enforcement offers less resistance,

"Noting the important role of regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in increasing the level of awareness and of co-ordination among States and in promoting agreement on measures to be taken by States with the support of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat,

"Requests the Secretary-General to give priority to appointing, as a matter of urgency, a full-time liaison officer for activities in Asia and the Pacific, who would be responsible to the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat and whose post would be financed from the regular budget, to enable the Division to provide fully and rapidly all assistance requested by meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and supported by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs."

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*See paragraph 69 below.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Establishment of a directory of national drug law enforcement contact points*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Mindful of the need for a global information system on drug-related matters to serve the needs of all States, organizations and agencies working to eliminate the illicit drug scourge,

"Noting the support for such a system expressed by the General Assembly in the Global Programme of Action contained in its resolution S-17/2, annex, of 23 February 1990,

"1. Draws attention to the often repeated calls at various international and regional forums 1/ for a global information system on drug-related matters to be urgently set up and to be provided with adequate staff and with the necessary expertise, equipment and resources for prompt operational effectiveness, expansion and improvement as appropriate;

"2. Notes the requests made by the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, 2/ held at Beijing from 15 to 19 October 1990, for the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat to compile and to maintain a directory of national drug law enforcement and other contact points to improve the effectiveness of international co-operation;

"3. Urges the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to establish such a directory as a regular activity of the United Nations drug control units.

"1/ See E/1990/39, para. 163 (f).

"2/ E/CN.7/1991/4, para. 30 (c)."

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

2. The Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of the following draft resolution:

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*See paragraph 69 below.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Development and implementation of an international training strategy as a matter of urgency*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the repeated attention drawn to the need to co-ordinate, at a central point, training programmes in the field of drug law enforcement, as most recently expressed in the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-17/2, annex, of 23 February 1990.

1. Applauds the initiative taken by the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, in conjunction with the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and in co-operation with the secretariats of the International Criminal Police Organization and the Customs Co-operation Council;

2. Recognizes the particular value of establishing a central information system, preferably at the Division of Narcotic Drugs, for the maintenance of comprehensive global data on such training;

3. Strongly supports the participation of organizations offering training at the regional or subregional level and donor countries providing bilateral training to other countries in the formulation and implementation of an international training strategy, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/12 of 25 May 1988;

4. Notes the interest in the international training strategy manifested by such organizations at the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held at Beijing from 15 to 19 October 1990;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to give a high priority to the ongoing development of the international training strategy and to provide, as a matter of urgency, adequate resources for its implementation.

C. Venue of the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

3. The Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, draws the attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the offer by the Government of Australia to act as host to the Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific, in 1991.

II. CURRENT TRENDS IN ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: REPORTING ON STATISTICS OF SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES TO THE DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS OF THE SECRETARIAT

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 15 October 1990, the Meeting considered agenda item 3, on current trends in illicit drug traffic in Asia and the Pacific. It

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*See paragraph 69 below.

had before it a conference room paper (DND/HONLAP/1990/CRP.7) on the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in Asia and the Pacific in the period 1989-1990. The conference room paper contained tables and annexes prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat based on the annual reports questionnaire and on reports of significant seizures of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances submitted by Governments to the Secretary-General, in compliance with provisions of the international drug control treaties.

5. In introducing agenda item 3, the Chief of the Suppression of Illicit Traffic Section of the Division of Narcotic Drugs described some of the significant trends in illicit traffic based on the annual reports and reports of significant seizures submitted by Governments to the Division. He urged participants to make a special effort to ensure that their Governments communicated to the Division annual reports, as well as significant cases involving illicit traffic. In order to be in a better position to adopt and implement countermeasures at the regional level and to deal with transborder illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and essential chemicals, it was essential to have a complete understanding of the trends at the regional level.

6. Many participants described the most recent trends and developments in illicit traffic in their countries. Several referred to the reports on the illicit traffic situation that they had submitted to the Secretariat, which were available as conference room papers. There was general agreement that Asia and the Pacific continued to be faced with a growing threat from the twin problems of drug abuse and illicit traffic. The region remained a major source of opiates, particularly from south-east Asia, and of cannabis, in addition to being a major consumption area for those products. There was a significant and growing illicit market in the region for psychotropic substances, particularly amphetamines, precursors and essential chemicals. Some of those substances were being illicitly produced within the region. Several representatives reported record seizures, particularly of opiates and cannabis, and the arrest and prosecution of an increased number of persons for drug-related offences. Some representatives, referring to recent seizures of cocaine, drew attention to the threat that illicit cocaine traffic posed to the region.

7. Several participants said that their countries continued to be particularly affected by illicit traffic in heroin originating from the Golden Triangle.* The Meeting was informed that, as a result of effective law enforcement action, the number of seizures had increased significantly in India; the total volume of seized drugs, however, had decreased significantly. There was also a tendency for illicit traffickers to avoid using India as a transit route and to use the Balkan route to Europe instead. Japan was increasingly being used as a transit point for illicit heroin from south-east Asia destined for Europe and the United States of America. The prices and availability of heroin in Australia remained stable. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal reported increased illicit traffic in heroin in their border areas.

8. Cannabis, in various forms, continued to be one of the most abused drugs in several countries and areas of Asia and the Pacific. Cannabis herb found

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*The area where the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand meet.

in the illicit market in Hong Kong originated in the Philippines and Thailand, and cannabis resin was found to come from Nepal and Pakistan. Illicit consignments of cannabis from the Philippines destined for China, Guam, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, the United States and Western Europe had been intercepted by the Philippine authorities.

9. Most participants referred to the increasing demand for stimulants, particularly amphetamines. In Australia, illicit traffic in amphetamines, one of the most commonly abused drugs, continued to be dominated by motorcycle gangs. Methamphetamines, under different brand names, continued to be abused in several countries, particularly in Japan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. Most of the illicit production was reported to have shifted from the Republic of Korea to Taiwan Province of China; Japan reported seizures of amphetamines from China, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province of China. It was reported that the bulk of the methamphetamines found on the illicit market in the Philippines had been illicitly imported from Hong Kong and Taiwan Province of China. Several clandestine laboratories for the manufacture of methamphetamine hydrochloride had been detected and seized in the area of Metro-Manila in the period 1989-1990. Methaqualone, illicitly manufactured primarily at Bombay, was being shipped to the illicit market in South Africa through east African States. In New Zealand, motorcycle gangs were reported to be primarily involved in the distribution of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as "ecstacy".

10. Several participants referred to the urgent need to control precursors and essential chemicals. The Meeting was informed that seizures were increasingly being made of imported precursors and essential chemicals used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamines, particularly ephedrine hydrochloride, in the Republic of Korea. New Zealand was amending its legislation to require notification for the movement of precursor chemicals.

11. Australia and Japan reported increased seizures of cocaine. Cocaine prices in Australia, however, had dropped to a level that made cocaine competitive with heroin on the illicit market. Increased abuse of cocaine was reported in Japan; illicit drug syndicates based in Colombia were turning to the illicit market in Japan because of successful law enforcement activities in the United States and the pharmacological similarity between cocaine and methamphetamine, the predominant drug of abuse in Japan.

12. Most participants who spoke on item 3 informed the meeting of the prevalent modus operandi adopted by illicit traffickers. Several referred to the increasing involvement of Nigerian nationals as couriers in illicit traffic in heroin from the region to Africa and Western Europe. India and Thailand continued to be used as transit points by such couriers; a new development was the use of Hong Kong and Malaysia as transit points. It was reported that whereas, in 1989, 13 African couriers had been arrested in Thailand, in the first 10 months of 1990, 89 had been arrested, resulting in the seizure of about 199 kg of heroin. According to information obtained from the couriers, they had been paid about $US 1,000 per trip and had frequently changed their routes to avoid detection at major international airports. Six couriers arrested in Malaysia in August 1990 had been carrying a total of 2.7 kg of heroin on their persons and 0.8 kg in their shoes. Seventeen Nigerians had been arrested in Hong Kong in 1989 for possession of heroin from both south-east and south-west Asia that was destined for Europe and North America. Some representatives appealed to African Governments, through the offices of the

Secretary-General, to increase their co-operation in dealing with the problem. The Meeting was informed that the Third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, held at Cairo from 4 to 8 June 1990, had recommended that the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, should consider examining, from the perspective of drug-producing countries, the prevalent use by African couriers of false travel documents and should be more stringent in issuing visas (E/CN.7/1991/2, paragraph 16).

13. Several speakers pointed to the increased vulnerability of their countries to transit traffic in illicit drugs, particularly heroin from the Golden Triangle. The Meeting was informed of the alarming scale of transit traffic in heroin in south-west China, particularly in Yunnan Province, which shared its borders with countries of the Golden Triangle. Heroin from the Golden Triangle was moving through Guangdong Province of China to Hong Kong and Macau, where it was being redistributed to other parts of the world. The involvement of criminal drug syndicates in illicit heroin traffic had coincided with the opening of borders in China and the increased number of foreign visitors to that country, including ethnic Chinese from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Province of China. Incidents of illicit drug trafficking had increased from 563 in 1989 to 2,216 in the first half of 1990; the quantity of drugs seized on the illicit market had also increased significantly. Arms, ammunition and communications equipment, as well as large sums of cash, had been seized from illicit traffickers. Transit traffic had contributed to a re-emergence of or increase in drug abuse, particularly in the areas bordering the opium-producing countries. Sri Lanka, for example, which had no heroin dependency in 1980, was reported to have a drug-dependent population of over 35,000 as a result of being used as a transit point for heroin destined for illicit markets in Asia and Europe. The South Pacific States and New Zealand were also reportedly being used as transit points by illicit drug traffickers.

14. Several participants reported on the initiatives taken by their Governments in launching programmes aimed at strengthening activities for demand reduction and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and in promoting anti-drug campaigns.

15. Some participants referred to the growing involvement of organized crime syndicates, such as the Yakuza in Japan, in the illicit drug traffic. Illicit traffic in methamphetamines provided funds to the Yakuza to support its other criminal activities. Illicit traffic in cannabis was the second largest money-making operation of the Yakuza. Similarly, the Meeting was informed that investigations made over the preceding 10 years had established that there were definite links between illicit heroin traffic and Tamil terrorist organizations in Sri Lanka.

16. The Meeting was informed of initiatives and efforts to strengthen co-ordinated action at the national, regional and international levels. New penal provisions had been adopted in several countries or areas in conformity with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2). For example, new legislation had been introduced in Hong Kong to provide for the tracing and confiscation of the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking and to make money laundering an offence.

17. The observer for the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) described the Central Information System, an information pool on different customs offences, including notified methods of drug smuggling, which contained information that was available to all members of CCC.

18. Reports on illicit traffic in Australia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were presented to the Meeting as conference room papers (DND/HONLAP/1990/CRP.3-6 and CRP.8-24).

19. The Chief of the Suppression of Illicit Traffic Section of the Division of Narcotic Drugs informed the Meeting of the current status of reports on statistics of drug seizures and information related to illicit drug traffic communicated to the Secretary-General and received by the Division. Following a discussion on ways of improving the reporting procedures, it was agreed that greater effort should be made at the national level to provide the Secretary-General with the information required from parties to the international drug control treaties. The regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies had an important role to play in that matter.

III. CONSIDERATION OF URGENT MATTERS OR SPECIFIC TOPICS BY WORKING GROUPS

20. At the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th meetings of the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, working groups selected and discussed, in an informal manner, urgent issues facing drug law enforcement agencies in the region with a view to adopting effective countermeasures. Of the eight issues considered, three were related to illicit drug traffic in the region, one to illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, three to organizational and operational methods and strategies and one to demand reduction. Following the in-depth discussion of those issues, which was characterized by a frank exchange of information and opinions, each working group reported to the Meeting its conclusions and practical measures for consideration by the Meeting.

21. The Meeting endorsed the measures recommended by the working groups on the various issues, which are presented below.

A. Issue 1: Illicit heroin traffic in Asia and the Pacific: the current situation and emerging trends

22. The working group on issue 1, illicit heroin traffic in Asia and the Pacific, focused its attention on the situation as of October 1990 and on how the situation was expected to develop in 1991. It agreed on the following points:

(a) The illicit production of heroin was on the increase in the Golden Triangle and in the Golden Crescent;*

(b) While the quantity of heroin seized was increasing, bulk shipments remained largely undetected;

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*An area comprising parts of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

(c) Major illicit traffickers were turning more frequently to the practice of pressing heroin into bricks, which made concealment of large quantities easier;

(d) Ethnic Chinese continued to dominate the illicit heroin traffic;

(e) Heroin No. 4 continued to be the most common type found in the illicit traffic.

23. Following an extensive discussion on strategies and initiatives to combat illicit traffic in heroin in the region, the following measures were recommended by the working group on issue 1 for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) States should strictly implement the relevant provisions of the international drug control treaties, in particular, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

(b) Closer co-ordination and links should be established between the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) and CCC regarding illicit drug trafficking;

(c) All States represented at the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, should endeavour to develop mutual assistance treaties with one another;

(d) All States should establish facilities to permit the timely and accurate exchange of operational intelligence;

(e) Intelligence should be developed to identify major illicit heroin traffickers and their associates, modus operandi and assets;

(f) States currently experimenting with new narcotics detection techniques should be encouraged to continue with such research;

(g) Basic skill training in techniques for investigating illicit drug trafficking offences should be provided to States that did not have the necessary training facilities or expertise;

(h) States that had not done so should be encouraged to develop conspiracy laws;

(i) Each State represented at the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, should report to the Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, in 1991 on measures adopted to improve the situation in the intervening period, taking into account the measures contained in subparagraphs 23 (a)-(h) above;

(j) The Division of Narcotic Drugs should report to the Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, on the implementation of all measures recommended by the working groups on the various issues that involved action to be taken by the Secretary-General.

B. Issue 2: The involvement of Africans, particularly Nigerians, as couriers in the illicit traffic in heroin

24. The working group on issue 2 agreed that Africans, particularly Nigerians, were increasingly becoming involved as couriers in illicit traffic in heroin from Asia. The illicit activities of those couriers had adversely affected the situation in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

25. A large number of the couriers used forged passports and visas. Often more than one passport was used in different stages of a drug run. Most Nigerian couriers carried large sums of foreign currency, particularly United States dollars, for purchasing narcotic drugs and for financing their operations.

26. While narcotic drugs were often found concealed in accompanied luggage, the most common modus operandi adopted by such couriers was body concealment. The couriers would travel in large numbers in hope that even if a few of them were intercepted, others would get through with sufficient quantities of heroin. To avoid detection, circuitous routes were used, Amsterdam and Paris being the two favourite transit points in Europe. Co-ordinators of such illicit trafficking activities had been exposed in India and Thailand; students were also occasionally being used as couriers. The view was expressed that no respite in the recruitment of such couriers was expected in the near future, particularly in populous African countries such as Nigeria. Unfavourable economic circumstances, particularly the rampant unemployment in several African countries, made the lure of enormous profits from illicit drug trafficking irresistible. A working knowledge of English was the only prerequisite.

27. The following measures at the national level were recommended by the working group on issue 2 for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) The consular missions of States affected by illicit traffic in heroin should be directed by their Governments to be more stringent in issuing visas, particularly to persons from States whose nationals were known to be frequently involved as couriers in illicit traffic in heroin; visas should be granted to suspects only after they had been carefully screened and after their antecedents had been found to be beyond doubt;

(b) Each State should ensure stricter checks of suspected couriers at entry and exit points. Wherever possible, body X-ray machines should be used. States, particularly those on transit routes, might wish to utilize urine-testing equipment, such as the enzyme multiplied immunoassay technique (EMIT) equipment used by Hong Kong customs, which had reported a success rate of 80-90 per cent;

(c) Comprehensive and up-to-date profiles of all suspected African couriers should be maintained. Whenever appropriate and feasible, all suspected persons should be placed under surveillance from the time of their entry into a country until their departure;

(d) All convicted drug couriers should be deported after being sentenced. Their names, together with their photographs and fingerprints, should be provided to the consular missions of the States concerned so that that informaton might be taken into consideration when granting visas;

(e) The embassies of persons arrested for illicit drug traffic should be kept informed of action taken against those persons.

28. The following measures at the regional level were recommended for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) The particulars of each courier involved in illicit traffic in heroin should be conveyed to all States in Asia and the Pacific. For that purpose, contact persons should be appointed in all States in the region; their names, addresses and telephone, telefax and telex numbers should be exchanged at the regional level;

(b) The movement of suspected drug couriers, as well as information regarding their itineraries, should be conveyed without delay to all States concerned.

(c) Law enforcement agencies should exchange information on new modus operandi of drug concealment. Wherever possible, photographs on the subject should be made available to the law enforcement agencies concerned.

29. The following measures at the international level were recommended for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) The Division of Narcotic Drugs should be requested to assist the African States concerned in adopting stricter legal, executive and administrative measures that would help to curtail the use of their nationals as couriers in illicit traffic in heroin from Asia;

(b) The Division of Narcotic Drugs should, in collaboration with ICPO/Interpol and CCC, identify appropriate enforcement strategies to curtail the use of Africans as couriers in illicit traffic in heroin from Asia;

(c) The Division of Narcotic Drugs should be requested to inform the Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, of action taken by the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, in response to a request by the Third Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, concerning the use of African nationals as couriers in illicit traffic in heroin (E/CN.7/1991/2, paragraph 16);

(d) ICPO/Interpol and CCC should give increased attention to the measures contained in subparagraph 29 (b) and (c) above in their regular weekly and fortnightly publications and bulletins.

C. Issue 3: Co-ordination of policies and programmes at the national level; advantages to, and problems to overcome in, setting up a national co-ordinating unit or units

30. The working group on issue 3, co-ordination of policies and programmes at the national level, had an in-depth discussion on various aspects of co-ordination, particularly problems encountered in the co-ordination of drug law enforcement agencies and programmes.

31. The working group recognized that although overlapping areas of responsibility between drug law enforcement agencies and the competition resulting therefrom could lead to reduced corruption, it was important to make optimal

use of the resources available to such agencies and to avoid inter-agency conflicts and duplication of efforts.

32. The following measures were recommended by the working group on issue 3 for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) All drug law enforcement agencies should be represented on national units responsible for overall co-ordination of drug control measures at the policy-making level;

(b) Each State or territory should consider adopting appropriate measures to avoid confusion and duplication of efforts in the field of drug law enforcement and to promote the most effective use of resources. Such measures might include:

(i) Establishment of a centralized intelligence unit;

(ii) Agreement between drug law enforcement agencies on a clear demarcation of areas of responsibility;

(iii) Establishment of a mechanism to co-ordinate activities of drug law enforcement agencies in areas where demarcation was not regulated;

(c) Each State or territory in the region should notify the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the particulars of drug co-ordinating bodies, contact points and the scope of their responsibilities. The Division should compile that information in a directory for circulation;

(d) The implementation of the measures set out in subparagraphs 32 (a), (b) and (c) and the usefulness of the directory should be reviewed at the Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, in 1991.

D. Issue 4: Illicit traffic in psychotropic substances in Asia and the Pacific: the current situation and emerging trends

33. The working group on issue 4 reviewed the current situation and emerging trends in illicit traffic in psychotropic substances in Asia and the Pacific.

34. All participants in the discussion on issue 4 drew attention to the increase in illicit traffic in methamphetamines. Abuse in new kinds of substances such as pemoline and methamphetamine in tablet form were reported in Brunei Darussalam and Thailand. No major abuse of psychotropic substances was reported in China, Indonesia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Concern was expressed concerning the illicit flow to Japan and the Republic of Korea of methamphetamines manufactured in other countries. The number of drug abusers had decreased in both those countries. Methamphetamine abuse was reported to be on the rise in the Philippines, where it was being smuggled from other countries. The working group on issue 4 was informed that the authorities of the USSR were willing to share with States in Asia and the Pacific their experience in dealing with problems related to the abuse of cannabis and opium. The working group concluded that States in the region would be faced with an increase in illicit traffic in, and abuse of, psychotropic substances in the near future.

35. The following measures were recommended by the working group on issue 4 for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) Preventive action should be taken to stem the increasing illicit traffic in methamphetamines in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) The exchange of information between States in the region concerning illicit traffic in psychotropic substances should be enhanced;

(c) Contact points for co-ordinating measures against illicit traffic in psychotropic substances should be established in each State or territory in the region; their names and addresses should be communicated periodically to the Division of Narcotic Drugs for inclusion in an updated publication;

(d) The monitoring of ephedrine, the main precursor for amphetamine, should be strengthened.

E. Issue 5: Monitoring precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

36. The working group on issue 5 emphasized the need to control precursors and essential chemicals used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It recognized that there could be some difficulties in instituting stringent control of such precursors and essential chemicals; it invited each Government to institute the strictest control possible.

37. The working group discussed the provisions of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, entitled "Substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances", and considered practical measures to implement them.

38. The working group on issue 5 recommended the following measures for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) States that had not done so should ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances without delay and should fully implement all its provisions, in particular those of article 12;

(b) All States, whether parties or non-parties to the Convention should co-operate with one another and share information relating to the manufacture and movement of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(c) States that were not parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances should adopt and implement appropriate measures, in conformity with the provisions of article 12 of that Convention, in the form of legislation or otherwise, for the effective control of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances at the manufacturing, importation or exportation stages;

(d) Each State should establish a programme aimed at enlisting the voluntary reporting of the movement of precursors to the relevant authorities, where such reporting was not required by law;

(e) Each State should establish an authority responsible for the control of precursors at the national level that should communicate regularly with the relevant drug law enforcement agencies to ensure their effective involvement in the control of precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and substances of abuse; the name and address of that authority should be communicated to the Division of Narcotic Drugs for inclusion in a directory of national contact points.

F. Issue 6: Assessing the extent of illicit opium cultivation; effective countermeasures to be adopted by Governments and law enforcement agencies

39. The working group on issue 6, entitled "Assessing the extent of illicit opium cultivation; effective countermeasures to be adopted by Governments and law enforcement agencies", focused its discussion on illicit opium cultivation in China, the Philippines, Thailand and the USSR and on programmes undertaken in those countries for the detection of illicit opium cultivation and for crop replacement.

40. The working group observed that there was little or no information on the extent of illicit opium cultivation in some States in the region. The two avenues open for co-operation between States in the region included, first, the development and application of methods and techniques for the detection of illicit opium cultivation and, secondly, crop replacement programmes. Thailand was prepared to co-operate in those areas with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. The USSR had developed advanced techniques for detecting illicit opium cultivation and was prepared to co-operate with other States in that area. The first stage of the USSR scientific programme would be completed in 1991 and the technology would then be available to other States. China had acquired some expertise in crop replacement programmes following the successful implementation of such programmes in Yunnan Province. The view was expressed that programmes similar to those implemented in Yunnan Province could be carried out in Myanmar.

41. The working group concluded that there was a need for information to be shared on illicit opium cultivation so that an assessment could be made of the quantity of illicit narcotic drugs that could be produced annually in the region. It welcomed the possibilities for co-operation between States of the region in the development of methods and techniques for detecting illicit opium cultivation and of crop replacement programmes. The representatives of China and Thailand and the observer for the USSR stated that their Governments were ready to co-operate in those areas with States in the region.

42. The working group on issue 6 recommended the following measures for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) States in the region should provide complete information on illicit opium cultivation within their borders;

(b) States in the region should develop crop replacement programmes and methods for detecting illicit opium cultivation. They should avail themselves of assistance from States that had required experience in those areas, such as States with advanced methods and programmes that had been successfully applied;

(c) The representatives of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand should draft a proposal for a programme of action on ways of dealing with illicit opium cultivation, to be subsequently implemented with the assistance of the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

G. Issue 7: Measures to counter money laundering and to trace and confiscate assets derived from illicit traffic

43. The working group on issue 7 discussed measures to counter money laundering and to trace and confiscate assets derived from illicit traffic. It considered the removal of profits and economic incentives from illicit drug traffic to be as important as the actual seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the illicit market. Participants in the working group exchanged information on the legislation in force in their countries for the tracing, seizure and confiscation of assets derived from illicit drug trafficking. Specific examples of money laundering were provided by several representatives. The view was expressed that it was difficult for some developing countries of Asia and the Pacific to enter into bilateral arrangements for tracing assets because of the divergent legal practice, investment policies, tax laws and banking practice in different States in the region.

44. The working group on issue 7 recommended the following measures for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) All States should be encouraged to develop legislation for the tracing and confiscation of assets derived from illicit traffic;

(b) States should be encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements to facilitate the tracing and confiscation of assets derived from illicit traffic;

(c) States that had adopted legislation for the tracing and confiscation of assets should provide details on such legislation and on problems encountered in their implementation to States contemplating the enactment of similar legislation, at their request;

(d) States that had undertaken studies on money-laundering schemes should disseminate their findings through the Division of Narcotic Drugs or some similar vehicle;

(e) The monitoring of cash movements or financial transactions between States should be carried out using appropriate bilateral arrangements;

(f) Intelligence on money-laundering activities should continue to be exchanged via existing channels;

(g) Asset-tracing and money-laundering investigations were complex, specialized, labour-intensive and time-consuming. States that had developed training capabilities in such investigative techniques should, subject to suitable financial arrangements, provide training to other States upon request.

H. Issue 8: Demand reduction

45. The working group on issue 8, demand reduction, was shown a video on the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programme of New Zealand.

46. Following a discussion on demand reduction, the working group on issue 7 recommended the following measures for consideration by the Meeting:

(a) Governments should provide education programmes targeting children and juveniles, particularly those aged 9-12, to prepare them against the dangers of misusing and abusing illicit drugs;

(b) Programmes for other age groups vulnerable to drug abuse, for example, early school leavers, should be established;

(c) Governments should provide rehabilitation centres with appropriate resources; such centres should be under the authority and responsibility of agencies other than law enforcement agencies, such as public health services;

(d) Drug abuse should be treated as a health problem and the criminal justice system should play an important role in making treatment and rehabilitation compulsory for drug abusers. Arresting the offender should be considered an important initial step in that process;

(e) Governments should regard methadone maintenance programmes as a treatment option worth considering with a view to meeting the demand of known abusers for illicit drugs and removing them from the criminal mainstream;

(f) Law enforcement agencies should play an important role in making politicians aware that there are no quick or easy solutions to the drug problem. A whole range of treatment options, such as methadone maintenance programmes, and preventive education schemes should be elaborated and should be made available to counter the problem of drug abuse;

(g) Governments should consider providing methadone maintenance programmes for drug abusers who had completed compulsory or voluntary treatment, as part of a rehabilitation programme that would help them to become useful members of society.

47. One representative expressed his reservation regarding the effectiveness of the methadone maintenance programmes mentioned in subparagraph 46 (e) above.

IV. TRAININC IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: PRIORITIES, FACILITIES AND MODALITIES

48. In introducing agenda item 5, entitled "Training in Asia and the Pacific: priorities, facilities and modalities", the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs informed the Meeting of the training activities of the Division in the field of drug law enforcement. He stated that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/12, adopted by the Council on the recommendation of the Division of Narcotic Drugs at its tenth special session, the Division was drawing up a long-term international drug law enforcement training strategy in collaboration with other international and regional agencies, principally ICPO/Interpol and CCC, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to meet the training needs of the various regions in a cost-effective manner. He invited participants to provide guidelines to the Division in drawing up the training strategy by indicating the priorities for training in Asia and the Pacific. The Director informed the Meeting that an updated version of the United Nations drug law enforcement training manual would be completed in

1990. The Division was publishing biannually a calendar of drug law enforcement training events and had established a roster of international, regional and national agencies with expertise and training capabilities. The capability of the Division to provide training, which had suffered severely from resource shortages in the preceding years, had been reinforced following the appointment in the Division of a technical adviser specialized in drug law enforcement training whose post was being funded by the Government of France.

49. With regard to the long-term international drug law enforcement training strategy, several participants expressed support for the initiatives undertaken to co-ordinate training programmes at the regional and international levels and to avoid duplication of efforts. Others expressed support for the training of trainers as a cost-effective approach. The Meeting was informed of efforts in Malaysia to provide training to personnel of non-drug-related agencies who were stationed at border points, such as personnel in fisheries and in revenue and agricultural departments, with a view to enhancing illicit drug detection.

50. All participants who spoke on item 5 emphasized the important role of drug law enforcement training in the suppression of illicit drug trafficking and in demand reduction. Effectiveness depended largely on the expertise of personnel. Training in updated drug law enforcement techniques was a matter that had been given high priority in many countries of the region, particularly in China, which had only begun to regard drug law enforcement as an area of expertise following an upsurge in illicit traffic. It was agreed that training in Asia and the Pacific should focus on the countries and areas most affected by illicit drug trafficking, such as the Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent. It was suggested that, in developing the long-term training strategy, the feasibility of establishing one or more training centres in Asia and the Pacific should be taken into account. China was prepared to act as host to such a training centre. The Meeting was informed of a recommendation of the Asian Regional Drug Law Enforcement Symposium, held at Beijing in October 1989, to establish a training centre in the region. That recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly of ICPO/Interpol at its fifty-eighth session, held at Lyon from 27 November to 1 December 1989. The support of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) was necessary to achieve that goal. The Meeting was informed that since 1980, 200 drug law enforcement officers from six States members of the Association of south-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) had been trained at the ASEAN Training Centre on Narcotics Law Enforcement at Bangkok.

51. The observer for CCC informed the Meeting of the training activities of his organization based on the training-of-trainers approach. He referred to a series of training modules developed by CCC and seminars and fellowships offered for training in specialized areas of customs enforcement. The observer for ICPO/Interpol informed the Meeting that his organization was examining the financial implications of establishing a training centre in Asia for training police officers in the suppression of illicit drugs.

52. Several participants described the training activities undertaken by their national drug law enforcement agencies and outlined their involvement in training programmes at the regional and international levels. The Meeting was informed of national training policies and training programmes undertaken or planned by the Governments of Australia, Canada, France, Japan and the United Kingdom that could assist developing countries in the region in improving the capabilities of their drug law enforcement personnel. The observers for ASEAN

and for the Colombo Plan Bureau informed the Meeting of their training programmes in the region. Several participants stated that, due to limited resources, the training thus provided would have to be tailored to meet the most urgent needs of the requesting State. Regarding assistance in training provided to developing countries, the Meeting was informed of a special police training programme in drug law enforcement that would be initiated by States members of the European Economic Community whereby each member State would sponsor participants from specific developing countries.

53. Several participants stated that because many developing countries lacked the expertise necessary to effectively implement the novel provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, special training programmes, particularly in the tracing, freezing and confiscation of assets, controlled delivery, and mutual legal assistance, should be organized at the regional or subregional level in the near future. States with experience in implementing specific provisions of the Convention should be requested to assist others in doing so by providing them with the appropriate training. The Meeting was informed that the Drug Advisory Programme of the Colombo Plan Bureau would be carrying out, in collaboration with the Division of Narcotic Drugs, training projects with a view to assisting States in the region in implementing specific provisions of the Convention.

54. With regard to the specific training needs of the Pacific islands, the meeting was informed of a varied programme of courses held and planned by the police and customs services of Australia. There was widespread support among the participants for the adoption of a common training strategy by all involved in drug enforcement training, and the urgent need for it to be developed was underlined.

V. REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION

55. For its consideration of agenda item 6, on reports on the activities of United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations in the region, the Meeting had before it a background paper prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs (DND/HONLAP/1990/2).

56. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs informed the Meeting of the activities of the Division in the region, particularly those aimed at assisting Governments and specialized agencies in implementing international drug control treaties and at reducing illicit demand. Two separate presentations were given on the activities of the Division aimed at developing and executing technical assistance projects by providing laboratory equipment, training laboratory personnel and at disseminating reference standards and scientific information with extrabudgetary support from UNFDAC.

57. The observers for UNFDAC, CCC, ICPO/Interpol, ASEAN and the Colombo Plan Bureau gave presentations on their programmes in the field of drug law enforcement and on their drug-related activities in the region.

58. The observer for UNFDAC recalled that the Fund was the major multilateral funding agency for technical assistance provided to developing countries in drug abuse control. He gave a presentation on UNFDAC-funded projects in various fields, placing particular emphasis on crop-substitution programmes,

law enforcement assistance and fresh initiatives to develop a subregional approach involving operational cross-border projects in countries in Asia and the Pacific. UNFDAC-financed projects were being planned or implemented in the following countries of the region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

59. The observer for ICPO/Interpol informed the Meeting of the efforts of his organization to enhance co-operation between national police services, particularly the exchange of relevant information on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (DND/HONLAP/CRP.25). That exchange of information had been greatly facilitated following the acquisition of a computerized communication data base at ICPO/Interpol headquarters at Lyon. The Meeting was informed of the functioning of the drug liaison officer scheme. Foreign liaison officers posted in Thailand and in countries in west Africa were organized in a forum called the Foreign Anti-Narcotics Community, which provided closer co-operation between them and the host country's drug law enforcement agency.

60. The observer for CCC stated that, on December 1987, the CCC/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Regional Liaison Office, based in the Hong Kong customs service, had begun functioning as the region's information and co-ordination centre. The Meeting was informed of the objectives of the CCC/ESCAP Regional Liaison Office, of activities undertaken within the framework of the CCC/ESCAP Action Plan, of efforts to promote international legal instruments of CCC of improvement, made in the co-operation between customs services in the region.

61. The observer for ASEAN described the drug-control activities of his organization in the region, making particular reference to regional projects that had been implemented (DND/HONLAP/1990/CRP.2). The observer for the Colombo Plan Bureau focused his presentation on the training activities of his organization.

62. The representative of India drew the Meeting's attention to the activities of States members of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) in the field of drug law enforcement. The Meeting agreed to invite the secretariat of SAARC to be represented by an observer at the Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific.

VI. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND PROVISIONAL APPLICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

63. For its consideration of agenda item 7, on the entry into force and provisional application of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Meeting had before it a background paper prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs (DND/HONLAP/1990/3).

64. In introducing agenda item 7, the Director of the Division informed the Meeting that Spain had deposited the twentieth instrument of ratification on 13 August 1990 and, as a result, the Convention would enter into force on 11 November 1990, less than two years after its adoption by a conference of plenipotentiaries, held at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December 1988.

Twenty-five instruments of ratification or accession had been received as of 10 October 1990. He appealed to the participants from States that had not ratified or acceded to the Convention to expedite the procedures so that its provisions could be implemented universally. The Director reminded the participants that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/140, had urged States to establish the necessary legislative and administrative measures so that their internal juridical regulations could be made compatible with the spirit and scope of the Convention. He recalled that the conference of plenipotentiaries that had adopted the Convention, the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1989/13 and 1989/19 and the General Assembly in its resolution 44/140 had all urged States to provisionally apply the provisions of the Convention to the extent possible pending their ratification or accession to it. He informed the Meeting that the Division was able to provide States, at their request, with legal and technical assistance that would enable them to adopt the necessary legislative measures and administrative mechanisms.

65. Referring to the increase in illicit drug trafficking, several participants welcomed the early entry into force of the Convention. Several mentioned the establishment of an inter-agency committee of experts to study and adopt measures to promote compliance with the Convention. Several participants referred to new administrative and legal measures adopted or being considered for adoption in their countries in order to bring about desirable changes in the areas covered by the Convention and to prepare the ground for ratification. With reference to article 12 of the Convention, one participant said that his Government had prohibited the export of three chemical precursors without export certificates: acetic anhydride, ether and trichloromethane. Some participants referred to legislative measures in their countries that had made money laundering a criminal offence and that provided for the confiscation of assets. Such provisions were considered major deterrents to crimes involving illicit drug trafficking.

66. Several participants identified specific measures in the Convention that had been difficult to implement at the national level, including the jurisdiction of a State over offences committed outside its territory (article 4), the scope and extent of confiscation (article 5), controlled delivery (article 11) and the monitoring of precursors (article 12). Several participants referred to novel enabling legislation or amendments to existing legislation that were before their parliaments. Following the adoption of certain legislative provisions, such as extradition and mutual legal assistance, their Governments would be in a position to deposit their instruments of ratification. Some participants indicated that their Governments would deposit their instruments of ratification or accession in 1990.

67. Some participants informed the Meeting of bilateral agreements entered into by their Governments in order to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

68. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs presented to the Meeting a résumé of the outcome of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, with particular emphasis on the Global Programme of Action contained in General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex, and its implications for the fight against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. He said that the Division had been given new mandates and that the General Assembly would discuss additional resources for their implementation at its

forty-fifth session in November 1990. He emphasized that the implementation of new mandates was dependent on additional resources being made available to the Division.

VIII. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE THE MEETING

69. At its 9th meeting, on 19 October 1990, the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, approved two draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The first (DND/HONLAP/1990/L.3), on the appointment of a full-time liaison officer for the co-ordination of drug-control activities in the region of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was sponsored by India and the Republic of Korea. The second (DND/HONLAP/1990/L.2), on the establishment of a directory of national drug law enforcement contact points, was sponsored by Thailand and Tonga. For the texts, see chapter I, section A, draft resolutions I and II.

70. The Meeting approved a third draft resolution (DND/HONLAP/1990/L.4), on the development and implementation of an international training strategy as a matter of urgency, sponsored by Australia, Canada and Samoa, at that same meeting. For the text, see chapter I, section B.

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

71. The report of the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was adopted at the 10th meeting on 19 October 1990.

X. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

72. The Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was held at Beijing from 15 to 19 October 1990. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs opened the Meeting on behalf of the Secretary-General.

73. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs drew attention to the fact that China was the first country to suffer from the massive addiction of its population as a result of the legalization of the trade in opium imposed upon it in the nineteenth century following the Opium Wars. He paid homage to the Government and people of China for having suppressed illicit traffic in and the abuse of opium in the 1950s. Noting the considerable increase world-wide in the quantity and frequency of seizures of opium, heroin, cannabis and psychotropic substances, he called for measures to effectively curb the illicit supply, particularly by reducing illicit cultivation and dismantling illicit trafficking networks. Of equal importance was the urgent need for reducing the illicit demand for drugs as part of a balanced strategy covering all aspects of drug abuse and the illicit traffic that fed that abuse. He said that the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances constituted one of the most powerful tools to combat illicit traffic and that its effective and universal implementation would assist the international community in countering the destabilization campaigns waged by illicit drug trafficking syndicates.

74. The State Councillor and Minister for Public Security of China expressed the concern of his Government with the increase in the scale of drug abuse and illicit traffic in Asia and the Pacific and called for the enhancement of co-operation and exchange of experience in drug abuse control and law enforcement. Referring to the situation after the 1840s, when China suffered from opium addiction on a mass scale, he reiterated the determination of his Government to continue its resolute fight against drug abuse and illicit traffic. He emphasized that regional and international co-operation in the field of drug control was vital, particularly in dealing with the transnational criminal activities of illicit drug traffickers.

B. Attendance

75. The following States and areas of Asia and the Pacific were represented: Australia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

76. The following States from outside the region sent observers: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

77. The Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control were also represented.

78. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented by observers: Association of South-East Asian Nations, Colombo Plan Bureau, Customs Co-operation Council and International Criminal Police Organization.

C. Election of officers

79. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 15 October 1990, the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Gu Yingqi (China)
First Vice-Chairman:	Peter John Lamb (Australia)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Yoo Chang-Jong (Republic of Korea)
Third Vice-Chairman:	Dalbir Singh (India)
Rapporteur:	Lionel Stevens (New Zealand)

D. Agenda

80. The following agenda was adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, at its 1st meeting, on 15 October 1990:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Current trends in illicit drug traffic in Asia and the Pacific: reporting on statistics of significant seizures to the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat.

4. Consideration of urgent matters or specific topics by working groups.

5. Training in Asia and the Pacific: priorities, facilities and modalities.

6. Reports on the activities of United Nations entities and inter-governmental organizations in the region.

7. Progress report on steps taken to provisionally apply, ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as well as the harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of the Convention.

8. Other business:

   (a) Seventeenth special session of the General Assembly;

   (b) Urgent matters arising out of the country reports.

9. Recommendations and adoption of the report.

E. Documentation

81. The documents before the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, are listed in the annex.

F. Closure of the Meeting

82. At the 9th meeting, on 18 October 1990, the representative of Australia made a statement proposing that his country's Government act as host to the Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, at Canberra in 1991. The Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, endorsed the offer. The Chairman, on behalf of the participants, thanked the Government of Australia for its generous offer.

83. Closing statements were made by the Chairman and by the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs. The participants thanked the Government of China for its hospitality and for acting as host to the Fifteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, and the Division of Narcotic Drugs for organizing and servicing the Meeting. In their closing statements, many participants praised the new methodology of work of the HONLEA meetings for enhancing the role of those meetings as a catalyst for regional and interregional co-operation in the fight against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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